

John Shepherd (died 1806)

When Jacob Holdcraft did his survey of the cemetery in 1959, the oldest date he found on a tombstone was 1806. Mr. Holdcraft recorded the following in his notebook: “ ‘*John Shepard 1806 departed this life*’ – *no other dates; thin slab leaning against another stone.*” Unfortunately, that marker has since disappeared.

So, who was this **John Shepard**?

(1) There was a John Shepherd who married Elizabeth Wissman on 17 May 1781 in Frederick County. (2) The 1800 Federal Census records one John Shepherd in District 3 of Frederick County (which, at the time, included Berlin). There were 4 members in the family. Without further information, whether or not these are the same person who is buried in this cemetery is up to speculation. (3) On 16 Dec 1805, John Shepherd purchased lot #12 in Berlin (currently 1 N. Virginia Avenue) from Charles Beagle. John Shepherd (or perhaps his estate?) sold the property to Jno. House for \$100 on 28 April 1825. Whether these three references to John Shepherd all refer to the same person, and whether he is the one buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery, cannot be verified without further information.